

Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board 105 5th Street, Suite 206 Richmond, KY 40475 859.624.4700 / 859.986.7565



Reagan Taylor Craig Williams Co-Chairs

Doug Hindman Chair

Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting Summary of Action Items and Discussions March 14, 2018 Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) Richmond, Kentucky

Attendees

CAC: Doug Hindman, Laura Hawthorne (for Michael Dossett), Diane Kerby, Harry Moberly, April Webb (for Jon Maybriar) and Craig Williams

CDCAB: Jeff Brubaker, Tatum Dale (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr's office), Joe Elliott (for Col. Norbert Fochs), Laura Hawthorne (for Michael Dossett), Jeanne Hibberd, Doug Hindman, Ron Hink, Terry House, Sheila Johnson (for Col. Scott Gould), Leslie Kaylor, Diane Kerby, Tara Long, Darcy Maupin, Mica Sims (for U.S. Sen. Rand Paul's office), Reagan Taylor, April Webb (for Jon Maybriar) and Craig Williams

Media Attendees:

The Richmond Register: Kelly McKinney

Meeting Synopsis

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Update
- Process Working Group (PWG) Update
- Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) Permitting Updates

Meeting Summary Structure

This meeting summary is not intended to be a verbatim record of conversations; instead, it will provide an overview of the discussions and action items of government representatives and various members of the CAC and CDCAB. Key action items identified

in the meeting and a synopsis of the major questions and comments discussed during the various updates are noted below. Copies of slides and handouts presented during the meeting can be obtained from the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office (ORO) at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@iem.com.

Action Items

None.

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Sarah Parke, Manager, ORO

Parke welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted there were no action items from the Dec. 13, 2017, CAC/CDCAB meeting.

Opening Remarks - Reagan Taylor and Craig Williams, Co-Chairs, CDCAB

Hindman said he was glad everyone made it for the meeting.

Taylor thanked everyone for coming and said he was glad to be there and was looking forward to the meeting.

Williams agreed and noted George Ridings and David Benge, CDCAB members, were not able to attend the meeting. He said no representative from U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's office was in attendance as Ethan Witt has taken a position with EKU and a replacement has not been named. Williams said he has been in communication with McConnell's Washington, D.C., office to keep them informed of project information. He then welcomed Tatum Dale as the new representative for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr and recognized Mica Sims of U.S. Sen. Rand Paul's office.

Key Updates

BGCAPP Project Update – Jeff Brubaker, Site Project Manager (SPM), BGCAPP, and Ron Hink, Project Manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG)

Slides of this presentation may be obtained by contacting the ORO at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@iem.com.

Brubaker made brief introductions before turning it over to Hink. Hink discussed safety milestones by saying the project has reached nearly 9.4 million work hours without a lost-time accident. He stated there may be challenges moving forward due to the rampup in hiring, as it takes time to develop a culture of safety. Brubaker discussed recently

completed systems demonstrations on the Energetics Batch Hydrolyzers and Rocket Handling System. He then said initial testing of the Munitions Washout System was complete for the 155mm projectiles and testing of the 8-inch projectiles will begin soon. Brubaker said a portion of the Richmond Mall was renovated to support Toxic Area Training for plant operators. He then discussed plans for dual-facility operations at BGCAPP and said mustard munitions destruction in the Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) is set to begin between June and August of 2019 and will overlap with main plant operations. Brubaker said the Research Development & Demonstration (RD&D) permit could be issued at the end of March.

Hink said the project is beginning to transition from start-up testing to stand up operations and maintenance. He said the transition includes simulating different scenarios, such as a hydrolysate spill, for training exercises. Hink talked about the plant's \$170 million economic impact in Kentucky, \$101 million of which has been spent in Madison and surrounding counties. He said that diversity on the project closely mirrors Kentucky diversity.

Brubaker discussed the project's economic forecast in terms of payroll. He said the numbers should shift from previous estimates in the chart because the Explosive Destruction Technology (EDT) timeline will likely be ahead of schedule. He said a revised schedule forecast will be forthcoming.

Hink said BPBG is a large contributor to the American Red Cross and United Way in the region, and project employees donated 9,265 hours of volunteer work in 2017. He said EDT is progressing a month ahead of schedule for start-up testing. Hink said to accelerate the program timeline, additional laboratory space is needed.

Brubaker gave an update on the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) in Colorado. He said PCAPP has successfully reconfigured more than 28,000 boxed 105mm munitions. Brubaker explained PCAPP paused operations and employees are working on two issues involving large amounts of solids forming in the Munitions Washout System and Off-gas Treatment System heat exchanger corrosion. He said PCAPP is preparing to start reconfiguration of 4.2-inch mortar rounds within the next few months.

Hindman asked about the status of the BGCAPP SDC. Brubaker replied that start-up crews are finishing systemization of the SDC about one year ahead of the contract, or baseline, schedule. Williams complimented Hink and the team for the safety record and asked to clarify the planned start of operations in the SDC from slide four of the presentation. Brubaker confirmed the June-to-August 2019 timeline.

Hink said the plant has begun the hiring of more than 30 people per company each month for the main plant and EDT. He said there is a backlog of applicants, but challenges may arise as hiring continues due to the unique qualifications needed for plant operators. Hink said the project has been recruiting at nearby military bases.

Williams asked which company provided the EDT technology. Hink said the company was Dynasafe.

PWG Update – Jeff Brubaker, SPM, BGCAPP, and Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB

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Williams said there is a need for all working groups, with the exception of the Economic Development/Impact Working Group, to be combined into the PWG. He said this group will be able to provide recommendations in a timely manner. Williams said, pending opposition from other members, the plan is for the PWG to communicate recommendations to the larger body via email and not via quarterly public meetings to accommodate faster project timelines.

Brubaker said the first two PWG meetings focused on dual-facility operations. He said the next several meetings will focus on hydrolysate contingency planning, citing a recommendation from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) to develop a contingency plan should supercritical water oxidation not work as intended. Brubaker said BPBG is designing a loading area for possible off-site shipment of hydrolysate. He then said five criteria have been identified by the PWG to examine in more detail. Brubaker said Williams will likely bring forth additional criteria to discuss during the April meeting.

Williams shared his recent communication with Suzanne Milchling, program executive officer, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, regarding the community's stance on off-site shipment of wastes. He said he was very impressed with how quickly Milchling has been brought up to speed on the program. He said she understands the community's desire not to ship hydrolysate off site and avoid sending waste to other communities.

Brubaker and Williams informed attendees effective March 1, 2018, Dr. Arthur "Tom" Hopkins retired and BGCAPP will host new leadership in two weeks during an In-Process Review. Hopkins served as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs. New Department of Defense leadership will include Dr. Charles Ball, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control, and Guy Roberts, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.

KDEP Permitting Update - Dale Burton, Blue Grass Army Depot Section, KDEP

Burton said the RD&D and GB sampling permit modifications were public-noticed in January and the public comment period ended Feb. 5, 2018. He said the effective date for the GB sampling permit modification will be March 26. Burton said the RD&D permit

modification provides updates since 2007, and the RD&D permit modification will be effective before the end of March. Burton said KDEP is currently reviewing the waste analysis plan and laboratory analysis and monitoring plan. He then said KDEP will soon receive a permit modification request to destroy VX-filled munitions in the main plant. Burton said KDEP is finalizing a draft permit for open burn/open detonation for the Blue Grass Army Depot, though not directly related to BGCAPP.

Brubaker said the GB sampling operation will take place in May 2018 and will be a coordinated effort between BGCAPP, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA). He said an update on this operation will be provided during the June meeting.

Closing Remarks – Doug Hindman, Chair, CAC, and Reagan Taylor and Craig Williams, Co-Chairs, CDCAB

Hindman wished everyone a good afternoon.

Taylor thanked attendees for their presence.

Williams expressed his appreciation for BGCA providing timely information regarding leaking chemical munitions and said that dynamic had changed positively from years ago. He asked if the leaking GB munition was in one of the igloos closest to the BGCAPP site. Brubaker said it was not. Williams then said there is a NASEM committee review underway for alternative technologies for destruction of conventional munitions and military wastes that are currently burned or detonated in the open. He noted he is on the steering committee for a national campaign on this subject called Cease Fire. Williams said there is some progress being made but it is very challenging because the process is so widespread. He said a lot of "old friends" from the chemical demilitarization program are involved and encouraged attendees to check out the Cease Fire website as the topic directly affects the local community.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. at the EKU Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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